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May 6th, 1856.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Mr. Durand presented for publication in the Journal a paper, entitled, "*Plantæ Kaneanæ Arcticæ et Polaris. An Enumeration of the Plants collected by Dr. E. K. Kane, U. S. N., in his first and second voyages to the Polar Regions, with descriptions and remarks;*" which was referred to a Committee consisting of Drs. Zantzinger, Bridges, and Uhler.

Dr. Hallowell remarked that the most abundant of the urodèles in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, is the *Plethodon* (*Desmognathus*, Bd.) *niger*, which may be said to exist by thousands. It is found under stones along the borders of rivulets near the banks of the Schuylkill, and is very quick in its movements, its capture demanding close attention and much activity. It appears to be endowed with a higher degree of vitality than the other caducibranchiates with which it is associated. Its transformation is sooner effected; specimens one inch and a half in length, being without gills, while the larvæ of *Pseudotriton ruber* are found more than three inches in length.

The *Salamandra quadrimaculata* of Prof. Holbrook is identical with this animal; the red spots are observed in quite young specimens as well as those more mature, but disappear with age. It is very abundant, a large proportion of the specimens being thus spotted.

The urodèles most frequently met with in the neighborhood of Philadelphia after the *niger* are *Pseudotriton ruber* and *Plethodon erythronotus*. The former occurs in the same localities with the *niger*, but is much less active, though perhaps more tenacious of life. The young are of a bright red color spotted with black; as age advances the color deepens, resembling spanish brown (*maculata*, Green,) and in very old specimens is of an almost purple color; the younger larvæ are white, the older olive colored with dark spots.

At the present time, April 28th, 1856, the females of both *Plethodon niger* and *Pseudotriton ruber* are distended with eggs,\* as many as seventy being counted in the ovaries of the former. They are of a yellow color, about a line in diameter; none are to be seen in the oviducts; the number of eggs is not always the same in both ovaries, being sometimes considerably greater in one than the other. The eggs in many of the specimens of *Pseudotriton ruber* are immature, perfectly white and quite small. In the stomach of one of the latter a large lumbricus was found, in another the remains of a coleopterous insect, and in a third the tail and posterior extremities of a Salamander, probably a young *Plethodon niger*.

*Spelerpes* (*Cylindrosoma*, Tsch.) *bilineata*, is found in the same neighborhood, and also *Plethodon erythronotus*, the latter under stones, at some distance from the water, associated with *Plethodon cinereus*. In one specimen the stripe along the back was of a beautiful pink color.

May 13th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read—

From Mr. F. B. Meek, dated Albany, 10th May, 1856, acknowledging his election as a Correspondent of the Academy.

From Mr. Edward Tuckerman, dated Amherst, 3d May, 1856, transmitting the collection of Plants acknowledged at the last meeting.

From E. Billings, Esq., dated Ottawa, West Canada, 6th May, 1856,

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\* June 26th, females of *niger* in same condition.